

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00927 281037Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 EPA-04 OES-06  
/046 W

-----281304Z 006633 /47

R 280855Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5848  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 0927

DEPT PASS BAGHDAD

ATHENS FOR RTDO

MANAMA FOR DODSON

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BEXP, TC  
SUBJ: PROPOSED TECHNICAL MISSION/SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

REFS: (A) STATE 56092, (B) KUWAIT 1450, (C) JIDDA 2244, (D)  
BAGHDAD 494

SUMMARY: THOUGH STILL EMBRYONIC, UAE INTEREST IN PROTECTION OF  
THE ENVIRONMENT IS GROWING. UAE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND ABU  
DHABI NATIONAL OIL COMPANY HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SENDING  
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PARTICIPANTS TO SUBJECT SEMINAR. MINISTRY OF PLANNING MIGHT ALSO BE  
WILLING TO CO-SPONSOR EVENT WITH AID/USDOC, BUT MINISTRY'S  
DECISION ON SPONSORSHIP CANNOT BE MADE SOON ENOUGH FOR  
PROPOSED MAY TIMING. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED ABU DHABI NATIONAL OIL COMPANY  
(ADNOC) AND UAE MINISTRY OF PLANNING REGARDING PROPOSED

MISSION/SEMINAR. BOTH EXPRESSED INTEREST AND WOULD PROBABLY SEND PARTICIPANTS IF EVENT HELD IN GULF AREA. EMBASSY BELIEVES PARTICIPANTS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS COULD ALSO BE PERSUADED TO ATTEND. GETTING UAE BUSINESSMEN TO ATTEND WOULD PROBABLY BE LOST CAUSE BECAUSE FEW, IF ANY, BUSINESSMEN HERE SEE NEAR-TERM SALES OPPORTUNITIES IN POLLUTION CONTROL.

2. ADNOC OFFICIAL EXPRESSED NO INTEREST IN CO-SPONSORING SEMINAR IN UAE, COMMERCIAL ORIENTATION OF SEMINAR BEING MINOR PROBLEM, ADNOC'S ALREADY EXTREMELY HEAVY WORKLOAD BEING BIGGEST OBSTACLE. MINISTRY OF PLANNING MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN CO-SPONSORSHIP, AND MINISTRY ADVISOR, ZAFER AL BISHIRI, PROMISED TO PUT PROPOSAL BEFORE ABDULLAH MANSOORI, THE UNDERSECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF PLANNING WHO IS ALSO ACTING SECRETARY OF NEW UAEG HIGHER COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, IF EITHER MINISTRY OF PLANNING OR COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT DOES AGREE TO CO-SPONSOR EVENT, IT VERY UNLIKELY AGREEMENT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON ENOUGH FOR PROPOSED MAY TIMING. ACCORDING TO AL BISHIRI, UNDERSECRETARY MANSOORI WILL PROBABLY WANT TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL WITH COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE MAKING DECISION, BUT COMMITTEE IS NOT EXPECTED TO MEET IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. IN LIGHT OF THIS, IT VERY UNLIKELY EVENT COULD BE HELD WITH UAE CO-SPONSORSHIP BEFORE NEXT FALL.

3. UAE INTEREST IN THE ENVIRONMENT TENDS MORE TOWARD FOREST-ATION THAN AIR/WATER POLLUTION CONTROL. UP TO NOW ENVIRON-UNCLASSIFIED

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MENTAL CONCERNS HERE HAVE TAKEN BACK SEAT TO DESIRE TO INDUSTRIALIZE COUNTRY RAPIDLY. NONETHELESS, ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IS GROWING - ALBEIT RATHER SLOWLY. THE HIGHER COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, FORMED OVER YEAR AGO BY SHAIKHLY DECREE, HAD ONE MEETING THEN LAPSED INTO INACTIVITY. COMMITTEE, WHICH CONSISTS OF DIRECTORS OF THE VARIOUS UAE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE UNDERSECRETARIES OF ELEVEN MINISTRIES, IS ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO THINK ABOUT HOLDING SECOND MEETING. ADNOC, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS THINKING MORE SERIOUSLY ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. ACCORDING TO ADNOC OFFICIAL, MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AT JEBEL DHANNA WILL INCLUDE "THE LATEST IN ANTI-POLLUTION TECHNOLOGY", AND EMBASSY BELIEVES ADNOC IS UAE ORGANIZATION WHOSE PARTICIPATION IN SEMINAR WOULD BE MOST FRUITFUL BOTH IN TERMS OF PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND IN TERMS OF U.S. COMMERCIAL INTERESTS.  
DICKMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: ABU DHABI 0927 PASSED BAGHDAD.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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